



**1122nd meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday October 28, 2009
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California



Coins that made history
Stephen Huston

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, October 28 to hear Steve Huston tell us about "Coins that made history". Members are encouraged to bring items of historical interest from their own collections!

1121st meeting, California Souvenirs: L.H. Moise State Seal Medals and Store Cards 1894-1906 William D. Hyder

(reviewed by Michael Wehner)

California communities struggled with the economic and social impacts of the Long Depression at the end of the nineteenth century. Many turned to local celebrations and festivals to stimulate tourism and the local economy. The San Francisco firm of L.H. Moise produced a series of so-called dollars and store cards between 1894 and 1906 featuring the California state seal. Our guest speaker, William Hyder, reviewed these events, the medals, and related exonumia of the period.

Beginning with the "official medal" from 1894 Midwinter Exposition held in San Francisco, Bill explained the symbolism incorporated into the California State seal. This medal, made by an employee of the US Interior Department in the Mechanical Arts Building at the fair was copied by the private firm of L.H. Moise, a San Francisco die sinker. The reason for this duplication remains unknown but Moise reused the reverse die for a number of other smaller local fairs.

Bill brought his collection of these State Seal medals and discussed these local events. The medals from the Santa Cruz Venetian Water Festival, the Truckee Ice Carnival and the Cloverdale Citrus Fair are particularly rare and it was a privilege to view them all at one time. In the process of making these medals and some subsequent store cards for private merchants, Moise's state seal die wore out or broke. The necessitated the manufacture of another die. Bill has discovered that a few Midwinter Fair medals were also made with this die. All known specimens are very worn and Bill hypothesized that they were made later as salesman samples. Bill pointed out a number of diagnostics of the second die, the easiest being that the spacing of the letters in the word "EUREKA" is much wider on the replacement die than on the original. He also discussed

die state progression including an interesting evolution of die polishing.

Bill's forthcoming article in the Journal of the Token and Medal Society describes these medals and their associated events in more detail and is sure to be interesting reading!

September 2009 RAFFLE

- 1) Ed won a British Columbia totem silver dollar.
- 2) Federico won a book on Unusual World Coins.
- 3) Bill Hyder won 2 Irish coins and a Paul Revere medal.
- 4) Whalen won an assortment of World paper money.

September 2009 Exhibits

Ed showed lighthouse tokens and SF assay office silver bullion. Also a book about lighthouses showing the tallest light beam (165') in Sandy Hook, New Jersey and the tallest lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Michael showed an assortment of Moise California State Seal medals and a turn of the century Angel Island military token.

Jerry also showed a variety of San Francisco tokens with L. H. Moise signatures from various addresses. One in Chinese, one from Columbus Street and another from Mason St. Also, the Old Ship Saloon, Ocean Shore RR Saloon and various dance halls.

Ken brought a set of 3 coins from the 60th anniversary of Emperor Hirohito dated 1986. They were denominations of 10,000 yen, 1000 yen, and 500 yen and at face value are worth more than gold.

Whalen brought a teller's tray that held up to 3000 dimes. The tray was made of hardwood and square nails circa the 1860's. The tray was recently donated to the Saratoga History Museum in Saratoga and given to Whalen to have identified.

Stephen showed coins from Venice, 1848-49. One was 5 centisimi and one 15 centisimi punched to see if it was real silver. He also exhibited an SF masonic chapter penny with the state seal.

NOV. 6 + 7
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Breaking News!

Scott Griffin, a Northern California coin dealer, is arranging a coin show on November 6 and 7 of this year in the Old Mint. PCNS will have a table at the show near the entrance to promote the show. Volunteers are needed to staff the table and recruit new members. This is an excellent opportunity for the Society to expand ourselves.

There will also be several talks on Saturday afternoon of the show at the Granite Lady. Among the speakers are Michael Wehner "Coins, tokens and medals of San Francisco" and Federico Castillo "Coinage of Costa Rica".